

NEW YORK HERALD

BROADWAY AND ANN STREET.

JAMES GORDON BENNETT,
PROPRIETOR.

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AMUSEMENTS THIS AFTERNOON AND EVENING.

WOOD'S MUSEUM, Broadway, corner 30th st.—Performances every afternoon and evening.

OLYMPIC THEATRE, Broadway.—THE DRAMA OF HONOR. Matinee at 2.

NIBLO'S GARDEN, Broadway.—THE SPECTACLE OF THE BLACK CROOK. Matinee at 1 1/2.

WALLACK'S THEATRE, Broadway and 12th street.—BIRTH. Matinee at 1 1/2.

LINA EDWIN'S THEATRE, 720 Broadway.—ALL THAT GLITTERS IS NOT GOLD.—LINDA LEE. Matinee at 1 1/2.

NEW YORK STADT THEATRE, 45 Bowery.—GERMAN OPERA.—PREFECTURE.

GRAND OPERA HOUSE, corner of 8th and 9th sts.—LA GRANDE DUCHESSE. Matinee at 1 1/2.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—ON HAND—SUDDEN THOUGHTS.

FIFTH AVENUE THEATRE, Twenty-fourth street.—JERRELL. Matinee at 1 1/2.

GLOBE THEATRE, 728 Broadway.—VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT. AC—DAY AND NIGHT—KERO. Matinee at 1 1/2.

BOOTH'S THEATRE, 23d st., between 5th and 6th avs.—OTHELLO. Matinee at 1 1/2.

MRS. F. B. CONWAY'S PARK THEATRE, Brooklyn.—KIP VAN WINKLE.

SAN FRANCISCO MINSTREL HALL, 555 Broadway.—NEURO MINSTREL, FAUCON, BELLESCQUES, &c.

TONY PASTOR'S OPERA HOUSE, 201 Bowery.—VARIETY ENTERTAINMENT. Matinee at 2 1/2.

THEATRE COMIQUE, 514 Broadway.—COMIC VOCALISM, NEGRO ACTS, &c. Matinee at 2 1/2.

BRYANT'S NEW OPERA HOUSE, 23d st., between 5th and 6th avs.—NEURO MINSTREL, &c. Matinee at 2.

HOOLEY'S OPERA HOUSE, Brooklyn.—HOOLEY'S AND KELLY & LEO'S MINSTRELS.

ASSOCIATION HALL, 23d street and 4th ave.—SATURDAY POPULAR CONCERTS.

NEW YORK CIRCUS, Fourteenth street.—SCENES IN THE KING, AROMATI, &c. Matinee at 2 1/2.

DR. KAHN'S ANATOMICAL MUSEUM, 745 Broadway.—SCIENCE AND ART.

TRIPLE SHEET.

New York, Saturday, April 1, 1871.

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WHO WROTE THAT BOGS DESPATCH?—Purporting to be sent by Governor English to Boss Tweed? Show him up.

WHERE ARE THE DEMOCRATIC VIOLENCE COMMITTEES IN CONNECTICUT? The air is filled with bog reports.

A WELL INFORMED CORRESPONDENT in Connecticut says there is no doubt about the election of English, Democrat, and three, perhaps four, democratic Congressmen. In the New London district, Stedman, democrat, is pressing Starkweather, republican, hard. The latter had about 2,400 majority in 1869. It is expected the negro vote will be about equally divided.

THE LEGISLATURE is doing a great amount of work of late, sitting nearly every evening until late in the night, in order to continue the business of legislation. We notice, however, that it never fails to adjourn over Saturday and Sunday. The temptations of the gay metropolis are too much for it. A Sunday in Albany would probably lay up the whole working majority with hypochondria.

THE ENGLISH UNIVERSITIES' BOAT RACE.—This exciting event, the annual aquatic contest between the boats' crews of the English Universities of Oxford and Cambridge, will come off on the river Thames to-day. The start will be made at ten o'clock in the forenoon, in obedience to the flow of the tide—a great power in Britain since the days of Canute, and, perhaps, before his time. The most essentially interesting particulars connected with the contest, in its initial, are published elsewhere in the columns of the HERALD; the names and weights of the men of the respective crews; the style of their new boats; the appearance in training, with the condition of the betting in London yesterday. Our sporting friends must bring forward their betting "calculations" quickly, as the result will reach New York by HERALD cable telegram at an early hour this morning.

General Grant and His Quondam Tutor in the Science of Government.

As faithful chroniclers we place before our readers all occurrences as they transpire, making as careful comments on them, in proportion to their importance, as the greatest possible rapidity of publication will allow. In the hurry thus rendered inevitable we may sometimes seem to be unduly influenced by passing events; but it should be remembered that when great national questions have to be decided editors, as well as statesmen, require time for reflection. With the squabbles of parties, as such, we have nothing to do, and still less have we to do with the quarrels of individuals. When we report the one or the other and laugh or grieve, according as the combatants may render themselves a ridiculous or a sad spectacle, our duty is done.

It is true that the outbreak between Mr. Sumner and the President is one of more than ordinary importance in its kind, and that the "exposition" of the indignant Senator has afforded our contemporaries, both in town and country, and of all political shades, a fertile topic of discussion and an excellent opportunity of displaying their patriotism, as well as their knowledge of the science of government, international law, &c. But now that all have pretty nearly exhausted themselves, we can say, without fear of contradiction, that not only have all the essential facts on which Mr. Sumner based his charges against the President been published from time to time in this journal, but also many of at least equal importance which he has entirely omitted.

The difference is that we have not placed our facts in array against the President, having been disposed from the beginning of his administration to give him every encouragement in our power, rather than to do anything to embarrass one whose success in putting down the great rebellion had given him such a strong claim to the respectful consideration, if not the gratitude, of all in favor of preserving the republic in its integrity; whereas, although no doubt Mr. Sumner was once actuated by the same friendly feeling toward General Grant, there are certain facts tending strongly to prove at least a willingness to oppress white people, as well as to usurp power which he could not now very well bring forward without involving himself in the same indictment on which he arraigns the President.

The only way, therefore, in which the so-called disclosures of Mr. Sumner have influenced us in the least is by showing that even New England has become disgusted with the military style of government, the only style it must at last be admitted of which General Grant has the faintest idea. As it has ever been the aim of the HERALD to faithfully represent the enlightened sentiment of the nation, so it is at the present crisis; and, accordingly, the President must excuse us if he can no longer receive our support except he develops some traits of statesmanship of which we have not yet seen even the semblance. We agree with Mr. Sumner that the President has far transcended his power by sending the fleets of the United States to St. Domingo for the purpose of coercing the people of that island to annexation, so that he might obtain glory or secure his re-election by that means; nor can we deny that in doing so he is guilty to a certain extent of usurpation. Nay, we will go further, and acknowledge that neither king nor emperor would do himself, his government or the nation over which he rules any credit by pursuing such a course for the purpose of securing new subjects or new territories as that of which the President of this republic may now be regarded as convicted before the world.

It is nothing new for us to acknowledge thus, to the fullest extent, that negroes and mulattoes have rights that ought to be respected by the most powerful. But we have always thought and maintained, at the same time, that the rights of white men are entitled to equal respect, and that the latter ought not to suffer any diminution of those rights from being our own flesh and blood. It is true that a rebellious people, whether black or white, deserve to be punished, but it is not true that their punishment should be perpetual.

Mr. Sumner has told us that Spain has said and done certain upright, generous things in regard to the blacks of St. Domingo—things which present a contrast to the performances of General Grant in the same direction; but the great radical high priest has omitted to tell us that there have been other contrasts at least equally remarkable. Thus, for example, he might have informed us that, although Austria has been very severe on the Hungarians after suppressing their attempts at revolution, she has hesitated but a short time to grant them a general amnesty. In similar circumstances the Czar has treated the Poles very roughly, but he too has been glad to grant an amnesty as soon as the majority of the "rebels" had resumed their peaceful vocations. Even in Ireland, the country distinguished above all others for penal laws designed to force it to be "loyal," some distinction has generally been made between the class who, although they may have been rebels, have become peaceable and orderly, and that which continues to be both rebellious and disorderly, and finally, when the latter become even comparatively quiet, without making the least pretension to "loyalty," a general amnesty has been granted.

But has any similar disposition been evinced on our republican government to cast the mantle of oblivion over all that has been disagreeable and painful in the past? Should the most "loyal" of us be less friendly to our brethren of the South because they once rebelled against us than the Austrian Kaiser has been to the Hungarians, the Czar to the Poles, or Elizabeth, Cromwell or William III. to the Irish? These are points which Mr. Sumner has overlooked in his all-absorbing love for the negro. Mr. Sumner alleges, in no ambiguous terms, that the President is ignorant of the law of nations, international law, the constitution of the United States, &c., and we cannot deny that there is too much in that allegation. But if the Senator himself is familiar with those sources of knowledge we do not remember that he has ever given any proof of the fact in legislating for the reconstruction of the South. Upon the other hand, we distinctly remember several precepts and recommendations of his as to the treatment which he thought the Southerners should receive, even since most of the States agreed to accept the fifteenth amendment, which were in flagrant

violation of the principles laid down by all those great jurists whose authority is respected by the most arbitrary kings and kaisers. If there be any of our readers who forget this their memory will perhaps be as fully refreshed by a word or two from some of the jurists alluded to as they would be by quotations from the reconstruction speeches of Mr. Sumner. Thus Grotius tells us in his third book, chapter four, that "however absolute and despotism may be the power acquired over the conquered it is necessary to treat them gently and in such a manner that their own interests may be combined with those of their conqueror." Vattel says, in referring to precisely such precepts and recommendations as formed the burden of the reconstruction speeches of the faction of which Mr. Sumner was the shining light, "But let us not dispute the point; let the man who holds such principles of jurisprudence keep them for his own use and benefit; he well deserves to be subject to such a law." If Mr. Sumner has experienced a practical illustration of this he has hardly any right to complain. If he did not make himself acquainted in time with the third book of Vattel, it is better late than never; for in the same book the following remark occurs, immediately following that already quoted: "But men of spirit, to whom life is nothing unless sweetened by liberty, will always conceive themselves at war with that oppressor, though actual hostilities are suspended on their part through want of ability." Had this precept received due attention in time there would probably have been no need to-day for a new reconstruction law for the "Ku Klux" or any other "klaus." In short, Mr. Sumner might have learned much more humanity from the pagans of Greece and Rome than either himself or General Grant was willing to show the conquered Southerners. Nor need he have gone beyond Seneca, in the second book of whose "De Ira" he would find a remark or two which may be translated as follows:—"What would our empire have been to-day had not the conquered been permitted to mingle with the conquerors as the result of a salutary policy? Romulus, our founder, showed wisdom in pursuing this policy to such an extent that he made citizens of his enemies the same day that he conquered them."

If the application of this sort of policy did not suit New England, especially the modern Athens, so that very different lessons had to be given to General Grant, why should the President be so much blamed now, only for having proved, in one aspect at least, a tolerably apt pupil? His chief sin, according to Mr. Sumner, has been, not that he has not evinced abundant willingness to oppress and overawe by means of the bayonet and the cannon, but that, instead of confining his operations in that line to the whites of the South, but extending them to those of the North at election time, he has attempted to disturb the peace and tranquility of the free and enlightened blacks of St. Domingo. Most readily do we admit that it is wrong and reprehensible to frighten the negroes of St. Domingo by means of United States iron-clads and other warlike contrivances; but it would take much more rhetoric than we have yet seen to convince us that it is not equally wrong and reprehensible to overawe and oppress the Caucasians of our Southern States by similar means.

The Darien Canal Expedition.

We give to-day a full and very interesting report from the HERALD special correspondent with the Darien Canal surveying expedition. It is very evident that the party is moving with expedition and great energy, and if a practicable route exists they will find it. The work is laborious and attended with many hardships, annoyances and dangers, which, when a passage is found, will cause much delay in the completion of the great enterprise. Suez was nothing in comparison with what the Darien route must be, as will be discovered when the work is fairly inaugurated. That which may be nothing to an engineer force will, to the construction party, prove, probably, a serious obstacle; but perseverance, energy and determination, with the necessary funds, will remove mountains. Hence we expect that, at some future day, steamers will pass from ocean to ocean by way of the Darien Canal with no more trouble than is now experienced at Suez, if as much. Our correspondent gives some very interesting and amusing incidents connected with his exploration of the rivers. His description of the mountain scenery, the woods, the jungle and other features of tropical localities, are entertaining, and his experience with animals, insects and reptiles will allow our readers to form a very correct idea of the terrible discomfort attending life in a primitive country within the tropics. Fortunately the party thus far has enjoyed good health. Excepting in a few cases the debilitating fevers, caused by the malaria of that section, had not attacked them, and the work went on without a drawback worth mentioning. We hope their good luck in this respect will continue, so that before the season is over they will be able to tell with certainty whether the route is practicable or not.

THE WAR IN CUBA—HORRIBLE ATROCITIES.—By special telegram from the HERALD's correspondent in Havana we learn that the most horrible atrocities are now being carried on by the Spaniards and the rebels. It was only yesterday that we announced the capture and killing of an entire party of contra guerrillas; to-day we hear that the volunteers roasted a man alive, first driving a stake through his body, and that an entire family, consisting of old men, women and children, was murdered by Spanish troops. Thus the war goes on; and, as we thought it would, it now assumes a shape in which no quarter is given. We must be prepared to hear henceforward of many such terrible atrocities, that are a burning disgrace to those who perpetrate them. When will this wholesale murder cease? When will peace be once more restored to the distracted portions of the Island of Cuba?

TWO GOOD VOTERS.—Governor Hoffman has shown good judgment and pluck in vetoing the pneumatic tube or underground humbug and the Stout advertising bill. We congratulate the Governor upon the wisdom he has displayed in stamping out those two obnoxious measures in the face of the mighty influence brought to bear in favor of each of them.

The Frightful Condition of Paris—The Armed Intervention of Germany a Necessity to France.

Our latest advices from Paris fully justify the conclusion that nothing but the armed intervention of Germany can save France from civil war, a Robespierian Reign of Terror, and all the horrors of anarchy. The Communal Council of Paris are drifting rapidly into the old and revolutionary programme of the original Jacobins. All documents from the government at Versailles are forbidden circulation in the insurgent capital. The old Jacobin cry of "the Universal Republic," of "Liberty, Equality and Fraternity," is revived in flaming proclamations. Paris grows sadder in its appearance from day to day, and it would be something miraculous if it were otherwise. One hundred and sixty thousand citizens have left the city within the last ten days. The mass of these emigrants are no doubt people of some means and of some reputation for respectability, and they have fled to save their lives.

Chaplains have been ordered to cease the pious service of mass in the prisons. We may next expect to hear that all the institutions of Christianity, including the Sabbath, have, as once before by the same school of reformers, been abolished, and that the liberated citizens have been called to worship a woman of the town paraded through the streets on a triumphal car as the "Goddess of Reason." A search has been made among the insurance offices for the imperial jewels supposed to have been left behind somewhere in the city by the Empress Eugénie, in her hasty departure last September, with one shoe on and one shoe off, through a backdoor of the Tuilleries. Forced contributions, to the extent of a million of francs, have been levied upon the Bank of France, and larger demands will doubtless follow upon that bank and upon the money changers, pawnshops and jewelry stores, &c.; for your Paris Jacobin holds to his dogmas that money accumulated is robbery, and that property is theft, and that all surplus funds and means beyond the necessities of the day belong to the State and to the people, on the rule of equality. M. Blanqui, in the formation of the Paris Cabinet, has followed the example of Mazzini in his Cabinet of 1848—9 at Rome—a visionary concern founded upon the idea of a universal republican brotherhood, looking to the millennium in something like Fourierism or the Oneida free love community.

It is apprehended that a struggle is close at hand between the government forces from Versailles and the Paris insurgents, and that the conflict will be desperate and bloody. It is probable that the insurgents, if attacked by the loyal French troops, will fight with the desperation of pirates driven into a corner, and it is possible, on the other hand, that when brought to the pinch the government troops will not fight the rebs. This is the opinion of the rebs themselves and the suspicion of M. Thiers. But the rebs, with all their recklessness and audacity in everything else, have still a wholesome fear and a profound respect for the Germans. They actually propose to pay the German indemnity, and they are deliberating upon the plan of raising the money by selling Versailles to an Anglo-American company for one milliard of francs. St. Cloud for eight hundred millions to a German gambling proprietor, and Fontainebleau for five hundred millions. Compared with this communal establishment of Paris, this grim burlesque, what a blessed government was that of the philosopher Sancho Panza over his delectable island!

But with all this hideous and perplexing catalogue of French red republican absurdities and atrocities, the question still recurs, what next? Only a prophet or a lunatic would undertake to answer. From all the facts before us, a sanguinary collision between the government forces of Versailles and the Paris insurgents is inevitable and cannot be many days delayed. The government is stopping all horses and cattle from entering Paris, and in thus cutting off their supplies M. Thiers is pursuing the right course to bring the insurgents out. The Commune is actively disarming the loyal National Guards, which means that the Commune is preparing for the tug of war. It means war and "no quarters," for measures of proscription are secretly enforced everywhere in the city, and the ominous word "guillotine" though spoken only in whispers, is in everybody's mouth. We can perceive now that the Bonapartes were the proper doctors for these virulent revolutionary disorders of Paris; but is M. Thiers equal to the application of their efficient remedy of cold iron? He may succeed in marching upon the insurgents; but he may fail, and if he should fail, what then? The London Standard has a despatch saying that the Germans will occupy Paris immediately on the downfall of the Thiers government.

Has it, then, come to this, that the downfall of the Thiers government is expected as the result of an armed struggle between it and the Paris insurgents? If so, and if M. Thiers has any doubts of the issue of the sanguinary contest for which he is preparing, why not apply at once for the armed intervention of Germany to prevent a needless and profitless waste of human life? A modification of the treaty of peace, so as to provide that for a specified time the German army shall occupy Paris, will settle the difficulty at once. Measures in the interval could be adopted to secure the city against the "reds," by disarming them, and by bringing in to the support of the government one or two hundred thousand of the veteran soldiers from Germany of the late imperial army. Then, with the retirement of the Germans, M. Thiers would have Paris completely within his control.

On the other hand, let us suppose that, relying upon his hastily gathered raw volunteers at Versailles, M. Thiers is defeated and his government is overthrown by the "reds," and that the Germans, as the only alternative left them, march into and occupy Paris; what will be their situation and the situation of France? They will be in occupation of a conquered country, without a government, and France will be in chaos. Poor France! She does, indeed, appear to have run her course, not only as the arbiter, but as one of the great Powers of Europe, and she seems rapidly going in that decline from which Spain, once the head and front of the Continent, has been reduced to a mere cipher among the nations. There must be peace in France, or France, for the sake of peace, may

be incorporated bodily into the German empire. There can be no peace in France while the Jacobins of Paris are in arms. They must be dispersed and disarmed and held under the supervision of the mailed hand before there can be peace and law and order and the revival of industry in poor France.

The season is at hand when her peasantry should be in their fields and gardens, in the work of producing such articles of subsistence as they may yet be able to produce this year to meet the necessities of an exhausted country, otherwise threatened with a general famine. In this view alone M. Thiers should no longer trifle or temporize with these Paris insurgents. If he has any doubt of his ability to put them down with the doubtful troops he has collected at Versailles he should at once provide for the complete occupation of Paris by the Germans, in an amendment of his treaty stipulations with Prince Bismarck. Under the existing condition of things the armed intervention of Germany in support of the Thiers government appears as a necessity to France. Germany may be indifferent as to the fate of M. Thiers, because in the last resort, she can exact her indemnity, if she wants nothing more, in the appropriation of two or three more French provinces. But Prince Bismarck, while holding France to the conditions of her bond, is ready to give M. Thiers a helping hand. Let him provide for the occupation of Paris, for a limited time, by the Germans as a guarantee for peace and that indemnity, and there will be peace and law and order in Paris and throughout France.

The Erie Railway Litigation.

An important step was taken in this litigation yesterday in the United States Circuit Court before Judge Blatchford. The case of Heath and Raphael, the English shareholders, against the Erie Railway Company and Fisk, Gould and Lane, had been at argument for two days on demurrer to the bill of complaint filed by the plaintiffs. As yet there has been no decision by the Court upon the demurrer; but at the close of the argument counsel for the plaintiffs made a motion for an injunction restraining the defendants from issuing any more convertible bonds of the Erie Company. This motion was based upon an affidavit sworn to by an English solicitor, who is acting in this country as the agent of Heath and Raphael, and who states, upon information that has come to his knowledge, that the Erie Company and Fisk and Gould and their "confederates" intended to make a large issue of Erie convertible bonds. The design was, as the affidavit alleges, to place these bonds in the market and sell them, at a greatly reduced price, to the detriment of the company and its stockholders. A stipulation has been filed by the company to the effect that they will not issue any new convertible bonds, and upon this undertaking an injunction has been issued to that effect, and will remain in force until such time as it shall be modified or withdrawn by the Court or by the consent of the parties to the suit. This is a great point gained thus far, and one of the interrogations which they must answer in the United States Circuit Court is—Have they sixty thousand shares of Erie stock belonging to English shareholders unjustly in their possession, and, if so, why not deliver them up at once to their lawful owners? There is no escape from this position. There must be a categorical answer. The Court will compel one, and the public will be gratified to see justice done.

THE CZAR'S REWARD TO GORTCHAKOFF.—His Czarean Highness Prince Gortchakoff is the title by which the eminent Russian statesman and Minister is to be known in the future. The honor is made hereditary in his family by order of the Czar. The Russian Ministers, at the Courts of England and Turkey have also received aristocratic promotion at the hands of their imperial master. These facts, which are embraced in our cable telegrams from St. Petersburg, go to show that the Emperor of Russia is vastly pleased at the issue of the London Conference and the virtual obliteration of the Treaty of Paris of 1856 so far as it restricted the navigation of the Black Sea by Russian vessels of war. Prince Gortchakoff has won his honors well, as have the other gentlemen, and it is to be hoped that they may continue to wear them for a lengthened period to come. The famous Gortchakoff circular of October 31 (new style), addressed to Earl Granville, accomplished a grand work for Russia in every sense of the word. It appears as if "monarchs" are not "ungrateful" invariably.

THE THROMBONE'S WRATH AND THE HERALD'S ENTERPRISE.—Compelled to pay homage to the enterprise of the HERALD by using our special cable report of an interview had by one of our correspondents with Prince Bismarck, the Trombone, with brazen assurance, speaks of Bismarck defining "the position which Germany takes in the French domestic troubles in a conversation with the correspondent of an English newspaper." It is really remarkable, under the circumstances, that Bismarck should have expressed to an English journalist his appreciation of the good sense and consistency displayed by the people of the United States during the war. The Trombone, however, is mad—mad because it was necessitated to acknowledge our superior enterprise by using our special despatches, and doubly mad because our sources of information on matters of State are Emperors, Cardinals, Princes, Premiers and other men high in authority, instead of "my lords" valets, coachmen and flunkies generally, retelling at a porter house, over a pot of beer, the news they had overheard in the conversations of their masters.

THE LOAN—ADVISES FROM THE TREASURY DEPARTMENT.—Mr. Boutwell is rather jubilant because the new five per cent loan is taken up faster than at first. It is not unlikely that two hundred millions may be taken of these five per cent securities, for there are throughout the country a number of institutions that may invest in them; but it is not probable the Secretary will be able to get much more of the loan off or hardly any of the four and half and four per cents. Money is too valuable and too much in demand here for capitalists to accept such a low percentage, even with long time bonds and with the other advantages offered. As a general financial scheme Mr. Boutwell's loan measure will be a failure.

Dinners as Diplomatic Demoralizers.

When the historian of the future, Macaulay's New Zealander, for instance, shall take his seat amid the fossil files of contemporaneous journals and try to form a just idea of nineteenth century diplomacy, he will be sorely puzzled by one fact continually staring him in the face. That will be the connection between affairs of State and affairs of the stomach. *Le ventre gouverne le monde* is the French cynicism on the subject. The aforesaid historian will, perhaps, add that the diplomats of our day gave the principle a pretty good trial in practice. The whole system is an outrage on posterity, for future generations will be plunged in an inextricable muddle when they attempt, for example, to evolve our little bills on the Alabama claims from the surrounding cataract of bills of fare.

It is unfortunate for the High Commission, at present supposed to be sitting in Washington, that the word "Joint" is at its head. Every time the Commissioners eat, the entire press of the country goes into a succession of little firecracker jokes over the event. Though we may smile faintly at these small pops, the philosopher of the hour should learn his serious lesson from them. Eating is an ancient, useful and honorable occupation; drinking is equally ancient, undoubtedly as useful, and there is no question about its being highly honorable *per se*. There is, however, a difference of opinion as to what should be drunk. Why, then, diplomats should not be allowed to dine as seriously as less distinguished mortals is a question to which we shall address ourselves.

There is no shirking the point that popular belief inclines to the idea that the discussion of affairs of State is intimately associated with discussing edibles. Like all popular beliefs it is "founded on fact." When this cramming process was first applied to international difficulties it would be hard to determine. Cleopatra was as famous for her diplomatically seductive dinners and *petit soupers* as any one nowadays. Lucullus was a most magnificent *maitre d'hôtel*; the Epicureans were devoted to dining, and an antique Sybarite's cuisine covered all that was recherché in prog. As a general thing in those good old times the stuffing was done after treaties were signed; now a dinner is supposed to have great force in shaping a treaty. To the wily, slippery Tallyrand we owe much of the celebrity to which this has attained. Castlereagh feasted Ireland out of its Parliament, and since then eating has been looked upon as a powerful means to soften the head of a hard-shell diplomatist. We had a pregnant instance of its success lately in the person of a gushing old gentleman we sent over to England as Minister to the Court of St. James. It will be seen that all this points to England being the land which shall be awarded the honor of first applying the dinner as a diplomatic demoralizer. They are the inventors and perpetrators of post-prandial oratory. No wonder they should elaborate the rubicund idea of cutting a slice off a neighbor's territory, while helping him to a slice of plum pudding. But the system is not likely to work with Americans. What an old gentleman may say over his grog, call it ponche, sorbet or whatever you please, we are likely to take with a bismark.

But there is a fearful side to the question, which furnishes a fresh picture of modern civilization. When a whole republican nation becomes nervous at the sight of a live English lord in full dress because he holds an invitation to dinner in his hand, there is something wrong. It makes us feel worse than the poison of Lucretia Borgia ever made her guests. "Be wary, the dreadful avalanche—of English dinners" is the last good night our eastward of bound statesmen hear. We have learned to laugh at their doughty cry of "Excelestior," for public opinion soon lays them out as strait and stiff as Longfellow's youth in the poem. So long as this went on we had the corrective in our hands. English dinners have been dead-sea fruit to our envoys abroad. But now the odious practice has invaded our soil and spread its wheedling white cloth under the Stars and Stripes. We have a Commission among us which dines our legislators not only highly and jointly, but separately and every other way. What is worse, our iron-clad fathers of *finesse* have taken to dining the Commissioners. Like the Indian who saw the white man use mustard, and took a spoonful himself, they seek to disconcert the British lords at their own game. How it will end Heaven only knows; at present the record is frightful. The first batch of the English Commissioners arrived in Washington on the 24th of February last. There were two to follow, and of course business could not go on without them. In the meantime the dinner demon was not idle. The traditional green baize-covered table was prepared by Secretary Fish; but a snowy linen damask table cloth was laid over it, with a smile of self-gratulation. A similar scene was enacting at the British Embassy. The plot on both sides was laid very deep in the internals of human nature. The first dinner of the series was given on the 25th February by Secretary Fish, and only to the members of the American Commission. It ought not to be counted in the list of prandial performances, for it was only a rehearsal. Certain newspaper correspondents told wonderful stories about the weighty hints of State policy dropped among the crumbe; but they knew nothing about it. The whole time was taken up in each member experimentally pumping his neighbor on questions of statecraft, so as to prepare them for the battles of dainty dishes and the warfare of costly wines looming up before them.

On the side of the enemy Sir Edward Thornton called together his brothers to sharpen the edge of their diplomatic dinner knives, somewhat blunted by a transatlantic voyage. They clucked at the prospect of an easy victory, but knew not what was transpiring in the other camp. There was a day of rest, and on the 28th of February they met face to face around the table of the British Minister. The fare was excellent, but the guests eyed each other like gladiators in the first bout. They were only feeling each other's strength, and the combatants went to their corners smiling. The American chickens led off on the 1st of March at the